HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE A
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

ACSI-SIB

12 MAY 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. EDGAR HOOVER
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: b6
b6
DPOB: b6

b6

REC- 92

1. Reference recent conversation between b6 your Bureau, and b6 this office.

2. Attached are Agent Reports, dated 16 December 1959, reflecting results of interview of SUBJECT concerning Robert Welch, Incorporated, and the John Birch Society; Agent Report, dated 16 December 1959, reflecting the results of a citizenship check, and Agent Report, dated 22 December 1959, covering local agency checks.

3. No further action is contemplated by this office.

FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLI b6

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b6
Lt Col, AI(Inf)

For b6
Colonel, GS
Chief, Security Division

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AGENT REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR OFFICE OF INVESTIGATION

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

2. DATE INVESTIGATION

16 December 1959

3. CONTROL NUMBER OF FILE NUMBER

(b)(7)(E)

4. REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

On 2 December 1959, b6 b6 b6 b6 Boston University, Boston, was interviewed, at her request, at Headquarters, Region III, 108th CIC Group, Boston Army Base, Boston, concerning information which she felt would be of interest to the United States Government. Source stated substantially as follows:

In June 1959, shortly after her arrival in the United States from her native Germany, Source visited the German Consulate, 462 Boylston Street, Boston, in an effort to gain assistance in obtaining employment in Boston. Source spoke with a b6 a member of the Economic Section of the Consulate. She outlined her considerable journalistic experience in b6 and b6 suggested that she contact Mr. Robert Welch, who maintains offices at 385 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Massachusetts, under the name of ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED. b6 stated that Welch is the editor of American Opinion, a monthly publication which is delivered, gratis, monthly, to the Consulate.

Source reported to Welch and after a brief discussion, during which he ascertained her b6 experience and satisfied himself that she was not a Communist, Source was assigned to the office maintained by the John Birch Society. As concerns her attitude towards Communism, Welch opined that all Germans are still Nazis at heart and, therefore, anti-Communist. Welch informed Source that the John Birch Society was founded in 1953, but had been relatively inactive until January 1959, when he started to devote more time to it. Source was taken downstairs to the office of the Society, which is located in the basement at 385 Concord Avenue, Belmont. Source spent approximately four weeks in this office, about half of which time was spent reading material published by Welch, by way of indoctrination into the office. The remainder of the time was spent in doing routine clerical work. During her short stay in this office, Source ascertained the following, from personal observation and from conversations with other Society employees:

The Society did not become really active until January 1959, when Welch held a meeting at a country club, name unknown, in Belmont. Approximately 200 persons were invited to this meeting, all of whom were approved by Welch prior to the actual invitation. Welch was the sole speaker for this occasion. His speech lasted for eight hours and was Welch's evaluation of the Communist threat to the United States, and the need for an organization to awaken and protect the United States from this menace. Source has heard a taped recording of the speech, but could recall few specifics, since the length of the tape, six hours, made it too long and boring for easy assimilation. This meeting was a bid for membership into the John Birch Society, and those present were given membership blanks to complete and submit, if interested. The membership gained from this meeting is unknown

(Continued)

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

b6 108th CIC Group

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

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AGENT REPORT

(SAR AMC-320-10)

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

2. DATE SUBMITTED

16 December 1959

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NUMBER

(b)(7)(E)

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

to Source. All files concerning membership, finances, correspondence, and research material pertaining to the Society is maintained in the Society office at 385 Concord Avenue, Belmont. Employees of the office, as of 20 September 1959, were:

b6 b6 second only to Welch in authority. He is extremely intelligent and a persuasive speaker. b6 is presently employed by the New England Mutual Insurance Company, Boston, as Assistant Medical Director. He is also in charge of the Belmont Chapter of the Society. b6 holds a commission in the b6 and attends reserve meetings regularly.

b6 wife of b6 employed as a part-time clerical assistant.

b6 address unknown, who packs publications for delivery and carries mail to the Post Office. He is not a member of the Society and receives a salary of $75 per week.

b6 (phonetic) residing at an unknown address in Boston, 22 years of age, and a graduate of an unknown Jesuit college in the vicinity of Boston, where he majored in Economics. He has many acquaintances in Catholic religious circles in Boston and vicinity and is active in Society work among these groups. He receives $75 per week salary.

b6 (lnu) address unknown, who returned from Germany just prior to his employment in September 1959. He alleges to have been employed by an investment firm in Garwisch, Germany. He is being groomed for a responsible position within the Society. He was a member of the U. S. Army Air Force during World War II, but his present military activity, if any, is unknown.

b6 b6 a local high school girl, who types correspondence for the Society. She obtained her position through her father, who became acquainted with Welch when Welch delivered a lecture at an unknown Protestant church in Belmont.

b6 b6 b6 who handles finances, to include payrolls and probably knows more concerning the Society than any person other than Welch. She works to support a sick husband; is not in sympathy with the Society, and would probably be happy to provide a government agency with any desired information. b6 has frequently expressed to Source her dislike for the Society, and she has never become a Society member.

(Continued)

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

b6 108th CIC Group

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

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AGENT REPORT

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

16 December 1959

(b)(7)(E)

b6 address unknown, who occupied the position now held by b6 until his release, by Welch, in August 1959, for reasons unknown to Source. b6 was connected with an organization called the Liberty Lobby, and Source recalls reading material written by him and published in the name of the Liberty Lobby, San Francisco, California, which was extremely vitriolic in its criticism of President Eisenhower for his alleged pro-Negro and pro-Semitism.

The John Birch Society was named in honor of John Birch, an American Baptish missionary, who was killed, according to Welch, by the Chinese Communists, on 25 August 1945. A book, entitled, "The Life of John Birch", written by Welch, was published in 1954 by the Henry Regnery Company.

The ultimate aim of the Society is to become a third political party in the United States and, eventually, rule of the country. This is to be accomplished by uniting all anti-Communist organizations and individuals under the leadership of the John Birch Society. Source could not cite specifics as concerns the program of evolution into a political force.

According to b6 the Society is presently organized into approximately 38 separate chapters, with a total membership of 1200 persons. Source is personally aware of the existence of chapters in Belmont and Boston, but has seen correspondence from chapters in Chicago, Illinois; New York City, and unknown cities in California and Florida.

Each chapter is required to have a weekly meeting, which is held in the home of the chapter leader. In Belmont, the meeting is on Thursday, in the home of b6 Discussion is supposed to center around the Weekly Bulletin, which is written and edited by Welch, personally, and mailed to each chapter. A taped reproduction of the speech made by Welch, at the organization meeting in January 1959, is on hand in each chapter. This tape, six hours in length, is used whenever the chapter receives a request for a speaker. Normal procedure is to divide the speech into three sessions of two hours each. The taped speech is used because Welch does not desire individual Society members to make speeches; they only make introductory remarks and answer questions after the tape has been heard. Society members are to be alert to opportunities to present the taped lectures, through normal social, church, and business contacts. Welch stresses contact with Catholic organizations because, although a Protestant himself, he feels that the Catholic church is more militant in its stand against Communism. The decision to present the taped speech is made only by the chapter leader, who personally makes the presentation. A party of interested persons is usually held at the home of one of the contacts and, after a brief discussion, the taped speech is presented. b6 of the Boston chapter, is particularly active in

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b6 108th CIC Group

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AGENT REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

2. DATE SUBMITTED

16 December 1959

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NUMBER

(b)(7)(E)

4. REPORT OF PROGRESS

organizing these meetings. Response to the initial two-hour session determines whether meetings will be held to present the two remaining two-hour sessions. No notes or other method of reproduction are permitted at these meetings. Source is unaware of any presentations being made to members of the military, either individually or in groups; however, in August or September 1959, Welch spoke at the Harvard Club, New York City, and Source recalls typing invitations to two retired and one active duty U. S. Army general officers, names not recalled. Source does not know whether they attended or not. SUBJECT made at least one previous speaking appearance at the Harvard Club in New York City, details unknown.

Persons who show interest in taking active participation in anti-Communist activity, after attending a taped session, are given the opportunity to join the Society. Source is unaware of any specific investigations conducted on new members, but is aware that inquiries are made, on a personal basis, through social contacts. A new member is given a membership card and signs a request for membership. Members pay $2 per month dues; however, those who can afford to, pay more. Each chapter leader is required to submit a monthly report to Society Headquarters, covering meetings, membership, and activities. These reports are all maintained by b6 who acts as coordinator, and reports all pertinent information to Welch.

Welch has prepared a so-called "Blue Book" which is an outline of his taped speech, but which is much more moderate in its approach, to the extent of the Communist penetration of the United States Government, since it is intended for sale to the general public. As of September 1959, this book had not been printed.

At the time of the visit to the United States by Soviet Premier Khrushchev, instructions as to how Society members should act, specifics unknown, were sent out by Welch, together with black arm bands, which were to be worn by Society members for the duration of Khrushchev's visit. Source heard discussions as to the possibility of shooting Khrushchev, but doesn't believe that the conversants were actually serious in their intent.

It is planned that a moving picture of Welch, presenting his speech, will be made and utilized in lieu of the taped version. Welch has stated that $20,000 has been pledged for this purpose. Future plans also call for the establishment of reading rooms containing anti-Communist literature to be open to the general public. All chapters have been required to submit names of potential recipients of written material from the Society.

Other than activities outlined above, Source is unaware of any specific activities undertaken by the John Birch Society. Source provided

(Continued)

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

b6 108th CIC Group

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

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ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED Belmont 78, Massachusetts	18 December 1959 (b)(7)(E)

A key to the office of the John Birch Society, which she forgot to leave when she ended her employment with Welch (see EXHIBIT 1). Because she was duty bound to return the key to Welch because, since he is responsible for everything, he would probably assume her of taking it who some alterior motive in mind.

Because of her former clerical experience, b6 was transferred to the office of ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED, to organize Welch's files. Aside from Welch, other employees of the Corporation were:

b6, residing in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who is Welch's b6 and has been with him for 20 years, formerly as his secretary at the James O. Welch Candy Company, Cambridge.

Mrs. (fnu) Welch, wife of Robert Welch, who does clerical work afternoons.

b6 b6 b6 a local high school girl who types correspondence for the Corporation. Doran gained employment, after Sourge, by answering a newspaper advertisement for clerical help which was placed by Welch.

Other persons known to be associated with ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED are:

b6, a former news commentator on a radio station located in the Springfield-Holyoke area of Massachusetts. b6 receives a salary, believed to be approximately $20,000 per year, from Welch, in addition to Welch sponsoring b6 news program. These news commentaries were dictated by written instructions from Welch. The fact that Welch was his sponsor was not aired by b6 b6 also writes articles for Welch's publication American Opinion.

William B. Schlamm, formerly employed by Time and Life magazines is on Welch's payroll as a regular contributor of material for American Opinion. Schlamm, a former Communist, fled Czechoslovakia when the German army occupied that country. Schlamm spends much of his time in Europe and his articles which appear in American Opinion are entitled, "European Survey".

An unknown retired U. S. Army general, who acts as a lobby at Congress, representing Welch's views. This general resides in Washington and is on Welch's payroll.

Welch also contributed towards defraying expenses incurred by nationally-known radio commentator b6 (Continued)

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AGENT REPORT

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

16 December 1959

(b)(7)(E)

The monthly magazine American Opinion, published by Robert Welch, INCORPORATED, prints eight thousand copies monthly, approximately half of which are paid for by subscription. The remainder are mailed to persons who may be interested. A small number are distributed by b6 to various drug stores and other stores where magazines are sold for general sale to the public. Issues are mailed to prospective customers whose names are obtained through the John Birch Society, other Welch sympathizers, and exchange of mailing lists with other anti-Communist publications, details unknown. In addition to articles written by b6 and Schlamm, Welch receives material from b6 a former member of the staff of the late U. S. Senator Joseph McCarthy, Albert C. Wedemeyer, General, USA (retired) and frequently receives material from the office of U. S. Senator Barry Goldwater. Source believes that b6 is on Welch's payroll.

Welch edits all material appearing in the magazine and writes many articles himself. In addition to the magazine, Welch published many pamphlets which are distributed free and sold through advertisements in American Opinion. Source can recall two: "Report of American Bar Association" and "Why People Become Communists". Source particularly recalls the latter because, in the Welch files, she saw a magazine published by a Jesuit publishing house, from which Welch copies his pamphlet. The Welch pamphlet does not indicate its source.

b6 was assigned by Welch to organize his files. They are not maintained in a conventional manner, but are divided into categories as directed by Welch. Included in the breakdown are 115 files on Communism, divided into sections such as Communism in: Government, Churches, Education, Labor, etc. These files are also divided into geographical breakdowns to include most of the countries of the world and many organizations in this country and throughout the world.

Extensive files are maintained on leading political, military, and business leaders of the world. Typical selections under this section of Communists are: U. S. Senator John Kennedy, General of the Army George C. Marshall, deceased, former President Harry S. Truman and Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as the United States Supreme Court and the American Bar Association.

The material for these files is selected by Welch from newspapers and material received from various sources, to include subscriptions to innumerable newspapers, both domestic and foreign. A large segment of the files is devoted to anti-Communist organizations and personalities such as J. Edgar Hoover, Herbert Hoover, Herbert Philbrick and Conrad Adenauer. Welch uses the files for research material when preparing a speech or writing an article.

(Continued)

b6 108th CIC Group

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AGENT REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

DATE SUBMITTED: 16 December 1959

(b)(7)(E)

4. REPORT OF PARAGRAPHS

Money for ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED, is obtained from contributions. Source heard SUBJECT soliciting funds from acquaintances throughout the nation, by telephone, to assist him to combat the coming visit of Khrushchev to the United States. Source heard Welch comment that he had received pledges of $100,000. This money was spent by the Committee Against Summit Entanglements, which, if not operated entirely by Welch, is certainly much influenced by him. Much of this money was spent in full-page newspaper advertisements agitating against the visit of Khrushchev and urging the public to contact their congressmen. Source believes that Welch received money from his brother, name unknown, who operates the James O. Welch Candy Company, 810 Main Street, Cambridge.

b6 told Source that Welch left the business just prior to January 19[illegible], because of his brother's insistence that he not get the candy business involved in his anti-Communist activities. At the same time, Welch was told, by his brother, to establish a bank account separate from that maintained in the name of the candy company.

In September 1959, Source quit her position with Welch because of a distaste for the type of work being conducted by him, which seemed to Source to be strikingly similar to the activities of Hitler prior to his rise to power.

Source stated that she told much of the foregoing to b6 of the German Consulate and, in reply to her query, he advised Source not to report this information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

7. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

b6 10 th MIC Group

8. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

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AGENT REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

2. DATE SUBMITTED

16 December 1959

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NUMBER

(b)(7)(E)

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

(CITIZENSHIP) On 16 December 1959, the files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 150 Tremont Street, Boston, Massachusetts, were examined concerning b6 former employee of Robert Welch, and revealed the following information:

Name	b6
Date of Birth:	
Place of Birth:	
Last Foreign Residence:	
Residence:	
Marital Status:	Divorced
Children:	b6
Date of Arrival in United States:	5 June 1959
Port of Arrival:	New York, New York
Occupation:	b6

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

b6 108th CIC Group

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

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AGENT REPORT

(ZEN 300-220-10)

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

2. DATE SUBMITTED

22 December 1959

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NUMBER

(b)(7)(E)

4. REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

(LOCAL AGENCIES) The files of the following agencies were checked concerning b6 source of information concerning SUBJECT, on dates shown with results indicated:

18 December 1959	Massachusetts Board of Probation, Boston, Massachusetts	No Record
18 December 1959	Bureau of Identification, Boston, Massachusetts	No Record

AGENT'S NOTES: The Massachusetts Board of Probation is a central repository for all records of arrest which result in conviction in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Records of arrests for drunkenness and some minor traffic violations which do not result in conviction are recorded for court reference. Massachusetts law forbids the disclosure of arrest or conviction records for offenses committed prior to an individual's seventeenth birthday.

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

b6 108th CIC Group

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

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